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(8) that there are lands to the east of the Government hospital, which could be conveniently acquired for its proposed extension ; and

(c) whether, having regard to the injury that will be caused to the Mission by the proposed acquisition, the Government intend giving up the proposal ?

A.—The question of acquiring certain Mission buildings in Calicut for the extension of the Headquarter hospital is still under the consideration of the Government.

Report of the British Social Hygiene Council Delegation.

* 879 Q.—Mrs. S. MUTHULAKSEMI REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the report of the British Social Hygiene Council Delegation has been received by the Local Government, and if so, when ;

(b) when the Government propose to publish the report for the information of the public ; and

(c) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table of the House a copy of the report sent to the Local Government by British Social Hygiene Council Delegation ?

A.—(a) The report was received on the 5th September 1927.

(b) & (c) The question of publishing the report and of placing a copy of it on the Council table will be considered by the Government.

Recruitment of Civil Assistant Surgeons.

* 880 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have arrived at any decision with regard to the holding of competitive examinations for recruitment of Civil Assistant Surgeons ;

(b) whether any persons without the war service have been employed after the competitive examinations have been held in abeyance in 1918 ;

(c) if so, how many ;

(d) whether there are any special reasons for adopting this course ;

(e) what they are ; and

(f) whether there are any more men who have rendered war services and not been provided with appointments ?

A.—(a) Yes. Copies of G.O. No. 975, P.H., dated 16th May 1927, and G.O. No. 1291, P.H., dated 27th June 1927, on the subject are laid on the table.^a

(b) Yes.

(c) Twenty.

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- (d) & (e) Several of these officers had served for long periods as temporary Assistant Surgeons. They had been selected for temporary appointments on account of their high qualifications and had a very good record in the department. They were therefore considered fit for permanent appointment to the service without competitive examination. In certain other cases, the appointments were made by promotion from the grade of Sub-Assistant Surgeons. The suspension of the competitive examination for assistant surgery was not intended to affect the arrangement under which experienced Sub-Assistant Surgeons are, in special cases, promoted to be Assistant Surgeons.
- (f) Officers who returned with an unsatisfactory military record were not provided with appointments. All other officers who performed war service and applied for appointments have been provided with them.

Public Health

Free distribution of quinine.

* 881 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : With reference to my question No. 220 answered on 26th August 1927, will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to place before the Council the detailed proposals by the Director of Public Health for the consideration of the Government in connexion with new schemes in 1928-29 for free distribution of quinine and the orders passed by Government?

A.—No. The question is still under the consideration of the Government.

The water-supply scheme of Rajahmundry Municipality.

* 882 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) for how long the plans and estimates for protected water-supply of Rajahmundry Municipality have been under preparation ;

(b) when they are likely to be completed ;

(c) whether Government are aware that there is agitation by a section of the people that the water and drainage tax should not be paid before the work is actually commenced ;

(d) whether any provision will be made during the current year to grant to this municipality the amount that may be required to carry on the work ; and

(e) whether it is a fact that the Government promised to commence the work during the current year?

A.—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is drawn to the answer given to question No. 622 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on 28th March 1927. The Sanitary Engineer has reported that the preparation of the detailed plans and estimates for the scheme cannot be completed before October 1927.

(c) No.